



CASE STUDY

Setting Frameworks for Tackling HIV

Workshop trains staff on need for monitoring and evaluation plans



Photo: FHI/Doaa Oraby

Participants develop a monitoring and evaluation matrix during a USAID-supported workshop in Muscat for national AIDS program staff representing every governorate in Oman.

“M&E [monitoring and evaluation] is an area that I always perceived as a dark room I fear to enter and the training is like a strong lamp,” said a participant of a workshop on the topic for HIV/AIDS program staff in Oman.

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Challenge

Despite a low HIV/AIDS infection rate in the Middle East and North Africa, regional efforts to ensure the virus does not spread are needed. To improve the capacity of the countries in the

region to develop and implement high quality and sustainable monitoring and evaluation systems for comprehensive national responses to HIV/AIDS, a training was conducted in Cairo for 27 participants from 12 countries. By the end of the training, participants were able to identify gaps in their national monitoring and evaluation plans and suggest ways of filling the gaps. Recommendations were made on how to move forward with the plans and focused on the need for in-country technical assistance.

Initiative

Oman was selected to receive in-country technical assistance based on the perceived need for assistance, commitment of participants and support of the Oman National AIDS Program to enhance their HIV/AIDS activities. The aim was to build the capacity of Oman's national program to develop a comprehensive monitoring and evaluation plan covering all aspects of their HIV/AIDS programs. During a USAID-supported four-day workshop in Muscat, program staff and AIDS focal points in different governorates focused on the basic concepts of monitoring and evaluation, and more specifically as they relate to HIV/AIDS programs, with a special focus on voluntary counseling and testing, and clinical care.

Results

The workshops helped participants develop a greater capacity for monitoring and evaluation. The participants in Oman were open to the in-country technical assistance, which they hope will continue to help maintain a low infection rate in the country.